

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

GATTINGER'S PANIC GRASS (Panicum gattingeri Nash)

DESCRIPTION

Panicum gattingeri is an annual grass that has slender, bristly-hairy stems (1-2' (.3-.6m long), extensively branched and often prostrate at the base. Leaf blades may be up to 6" (15cm) long and 3/4" (1.75cm) wide. This species has numerous vase-shaped panicles (which are often two-thirds as long as the entire plant) with straw-colored scales on the florets and fruits. Flowering time ranges from July through August and fruiting from late August through October.



Britton, N.L. and N.A. Brown. An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada. Dover Publications, Inc. 1970 reprint of 1913 ed.

SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Gattinger's Panic Grass is very similar to several other Panic Grasses and technical manuals must be consulted for positive identification. P. tuchermanii and P. philadelphicum are less hairy than P. gattingeri, with rounder panicles and sooty green scales to florets and fruits; both often grow on receding shorelines of ponds.

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

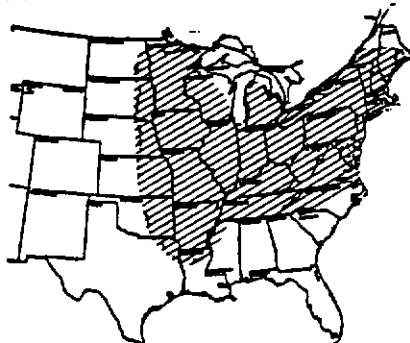
P. gattingeri is found along open sandy roadsides and in rocky wooded areas where there has been or continues to be some disturbance. It also shows a preference for limy or calcareous sites.

RANGE

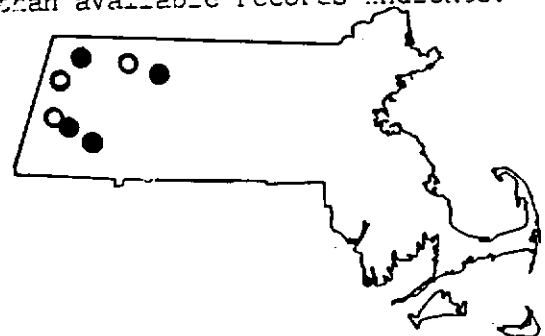
Gattinger's Panic Grass ranges from Maine to Minnesota, south to North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas.

POPULATION STATUS

P. gattingeri is presently considered a species of special concern in Massachusetts. Four current occurrences (1978 to present) have been reported and two historical occurrences (prior to 1978) have been recorded. Due to its similarity to other Panic Grasses, it is believed that this species is more common than available records indicate.



Distribution of Gattinger's Panic Grass



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town